

MEMO TO THE FILE:

Call with MPCA

(April 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM)

CALL NOTES:

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Birch Lake (69-0003-00) data considered by MPCA

Source	MPCA Considered?	MPCA Response
1854	Yes	RTC p. 14 (not in database)
MPCA	Yes	--
NEWM	Yes	RTC bullets on p. 13
USFS/USGS		
NLSAP	Yes	RTC bullets on p. 13

+ In certain discussions there is mention of a large/robust data set for Birch Lake. Perhaps those commenters are referring to the larger historical water quality data set for Birch Lake?

- Historically, sulfate concentrations have been elevated. When considering some of the sulfate concentration values from the 1970s era, the sulfate concentrations collected more recently have improved in some cases
- Perhaps the commenters are considering the bigger snapshot in time?

+ MPCA didn't find much for the USFS/USGS data

For conducting water quality sampling at Birch Lake:

+ Birch Lake is pretty remote and big, logistics of getting around the lake and visiting multiple sampling locations are time consuming

For Resegmentation:

+ MPCA needs to complete its due diligence and line up its justifications/arguments to defend any resegmentation of Birch Lake.

+ For 2024, assuming that MPCA would pursue a resegmentation of Birch Lake, it would need to build an argument of why it is appropriate to carve out Bob and Dunka Bay from the larger Birch Lake assessment unit.

- E.g., MPCA would examine the bathymetry and complete flow modeling
- MPCA would build its understanding of any potential unique conditions which would support a resegmentation

+ MPCA speculates that, it may be easier to make a resegmentation argument for Bob's Bay vs. Dunka Bay. Bob's Bay is more sheltered. Dunka Bay is more open and has more flow changes occurring.

+ Also, for resegmentation all uses need to be considered, not just wild rice use

Consideration of water quality data for 2024:

+ Perhaps the conversation changes for the 2024 IR cycle.

+ Water quality data needs to be QA/QC'd and entered into the EQUIS data portal.

+ No sulfate data submitted by outside groups can be granted an exception. It has to be considered just like all other water quality data submitted to MPCA.

- The data has to go through the same protocols as all other data.
- If MPCA were to list a segment on faulty data (i.e., suspect data which has not fully been vetted) then that could create a lot of headaches